

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R.1406—a bill more appropriately titled the “More Work, Less Pay Act.”

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle have spoken today about the challenges facing working families. Far too many families are still struggling financially to make ends meet, and as their Representatives we should be voting on legislation that provides more opportunities and support for America’s workers.

Instead, House Republicans are wasting time on a harmful bill that puts us on a path to eliminating the 40 hour work week and a worker’s right to overtime pay. This bill presents a false flexibility that could amount to a real pay-cut for many of our nation’s hard working families. Under this bill, employers could cut the hours of employees who want overtime pay instead of comp time. And for workers who do choose comp time, employers could later deny or delay their requests for time off.

There are bills pending in the House right now that would actually benefit working families. We should be voting on the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 377) to ensure that women and men take home the same pay for the same jobs. The Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1286) would guarantee paid sick time so workers can care for themselves and their loved ones. And we should be raising the minimum wage to lift millions out of poverty and boost our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we all want to make it easier for Americans to care for themselves and their families, but this bill creates more problems than solutions. It undermines the right of employees to be paid fairly for the hours they work. I urge my colleagues to vote against the bill, and encourage them to support bringing real family friendly legislation to the floor.

NATIONAL STAMP OUT HUNGER DAY

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, on May 11, 2013, I was honored to join the National Association of Letter Carriers for national “Stamp out Hunger Day”, the 21st annual food drive held by this great organization. I joined with a number of letter carriers to unload trucks packed with food at the Kirkland Post Office in my home district. It is no surprise that the letter carriers have one of the most successful

food drives in the Nation. Last year alone, the event collected over 70.7 million pounds of food, an incredible achievement which undoubtedly made a profound impact for countless families in need.

Since 1991, on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers from across the country have collected non-perishable food, and have distributed the donations to local food banks. This effort is by far the Nation’s largest single-day food drive. Since its inception, the effort has collected over a billion pounds of food. This is another example of the letter carriers’ steadfast commitment to the communities they work in every day, and their effort should be commended.

I am extremely proud of the work the letter carriers are doing to combat hunger and food insecurity, and I would like to thank them for inviting me to take part in their food drive. I look forward to working with them on future national “Stamp out Hunger Days”, and am grateful to know that these important efforts will help families in need across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Nurses Week. Nurses are the largest group of health care providers in the U.S., with over 3.1 million professionals serving individuals and families in a range of settings. We work in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, research labs, correctional facilities, health systems, social service agencies and even right here in Congress.

This annual tribute begins on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, and continues all week to honor the important contributions nurses make each and every day. In addition to setting aside time to recognize the work of nurses, each year a theme is chosen to highlight a different aspect of nursing practice. And this year’s is incredibly timely: “Delivering Quality and Innovation in Patient Care.”

Whether it is helping one patient heal or working towards population level solutions to some of our most costly ailments, nurses are continuously innovating to improve quality of care. Nurses are patients’ first advocate in improving their health; educating them about treatments and helping them navigate a sometimes daunting system. Using knowledge, compassion and skills, nurses not only improve quality of care for their patients, but can do so while holding down costs.

For example, using nurse-managed care coordination reduces emergency room visits and readmissions, ultimately lowering Medicare costs. And as nursing staffing levels increase, patient risks of complications and length of hospital stays decrease, helping indi-

viduals heal faster, improving quality of life and reducing long and costly hospital stays.

I hope you will join me this week in honoring and supporting this dedicated group of professionals who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to provide better quality health care for all. As co-House Nursing Caucus, and as a nurse myself, I want to say to all nurses who care for our families and communities day in and day out without recognition—thank you.

FAREWELL TO VISIONARY,
GROWTH-MINDED LEADER OF
NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY
COLLEGE, DR. ROBERT J.
KOPECEK

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert J. Kopecek, president of Northampton Community College from 1977–2003, who passed away in North Carolina on April 25.

Dr. Kopecek’s vision was to expand access to education, foster economic development and make Northampton a world-class community college. Dr. Kopecek achieved these goals and much more, establishing a legacy as one of Pennsylvania’s pre-eminent educational leaders. Under his leadership, enrollment at Northampton grew from 7,900 students a year to nearly 25,000, and the academic offerings expanded to include programs in more than 100 fields of study.

To allow more people access to an education, Dr. Kopecek led successful efforts to offer classes in downtown Bethlehem, in the Lehigh Valley, and in Monroe County.

As enrollment grew, so did the campus with the addition of Communications Hall and a child care center, the expansion of the College Center and Commonwealth Hall, and growing use of educational technology. In 1986, with private donations, Northampton became the first community college in Pennsylvania to build residence halls, enabling the student body, over time, to become more diverse, including international students.

While leading the college, Dr. Kopecek also played an active role in the community. During his tenure, outreach to the community came to include adult literacy and English-as-a-second language programs, Horizons for Youth, and the Art as a Way of Learning program that became a national model in early childhood education.

He also worked closely with business and industry, leading local manufacturers to rate Northampton as the “most visible” and “most helpful” organization involved in economic development in Northampton County. Dr. Kopecek led the movement to establish what was then the Northampton County Development Corporation, and served on the boards or advisory committees of the Bethlehem

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Chamber of Commerce, the Lehigh Valley Partnership, the Northampton County Industrial Development Authority, the Ben Franklin Partnership, and the Private Industry Council. He twice served as president of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, and once as chair of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Universities whose membership includes almost all of the public and private colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Mark Erickson, current NCC president, noted "Bob was a true visionary and his impact on this college, our students, faculty and staff will be felt for generations to come."

An editorial in *The Express-Times* at the time of his retirement described him as "a miracle worker." Another in *The Morning Call* credited him with making Northampton and the community better places, noting that one of his gifts was recognizing "the importance of community colleges to provide near-universal access to education beyond high school" and "how vital the community college is to economic development in its supporting region."

It is truly an honor to recognize Dr. Kopecek and his dedicated service and lasting contributions to the Northampton community.

TRIBUTE TO STEPTOE AND JOHNSON PLLC

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Steptoe and Johnson PLLC, a law firm founded in Clarksburg, West Virginia by Phillip P. Steptoe and Louis A. Johnson. Steptoe and Johnson quickly gained a reputation as one of central West Virginia's most prominent law firms, specializing in the fields of banking, insurance, litigation, mineral, and public utility law.

Since opening its first office, Steptoe and Johnson has expanded across West Virginia, with locations in Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, Wheeling, Morgantown, and Martinsburg. The firm increased their regional presence, opening offices in neighboring states, with operations in Canton and Columbus, Ohio; Meadville and Southpointe, Pennsylvania; and Lexington, Kentucky. Recently, Steptoe and Johnson established offices in Denver, Colorado and Houston, Texas.

In total, Steptoe and Johnson employs an impressive 275 attorneys and approximately 570 staff members, working in fourteen offices in six states. As Steptoe and Johnson's practice has grown throughout the years, so has their reputation, gaining national recognition as an energy firm with strengths in corporate transactions, labor and employment law and litigation.

In addition to Steptoe and Johnson's legal work, the firm also contributes substantially to the communities they serve. In December 2012, Steptoe and Johnson donated more than 100 cell phones to benefit United Way organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central West Virginia and Hope, Inc., a support group for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence. Further building on the firm's reputation as a socially responsible community member, in the past year Steptoe

and Johnson increased their pro bono work by 77%, earning them a fifth straight Kaufman Pro Bono Award from the West Virginia Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, celebrating a 100th anniversary is quite an accomplishment, and I commend Steptoe and Johnson for their many years of exemplary work and dedication to community service.

Thank you, Steptoe and Johnson. The State of West Virginia is proud of your service and looks forward to sharing another 100 years with you as an outstanding corporate citizen.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE NCAA ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Minnesota's women's ice hockey team for winning the 2013 NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Championship. This victory marks their second consecutive NCAA championship title.

The Lady Gophers finished the 2012–13 season with a perfect, unprecedented record—41 wins, 0 losses, and 0 ties. They are the first team in the 13-year history of NCAA women's ice hockey to finish the season with a perfect record.

Head Coach Brad Frost, Assistant Coach Joel Johnson, Assistant Coach Nadine Muzerall, Volunteer Goalie Coach Andy Kent, and Director of Hockey Operations Eric Bakke also deserve recognition for their hard work in helping to lead the Gophers to a winning season.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate the University of Minnesota's women's ice hockey team on their exceptional performance. Good luck next year.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we recognize this week as National Nurses Week, and celebrate the life-saving work that nurses do every single day of the year. As the first registered nurse in Congress, I know from experience that nurses play a critical role in patient care, health promotion, and disease prevention. Nurses are the most trusted professionals in the country, and it is no wonder why. Nurses have the privilege and responsibility of caring for people at their most vulnerable, and they do it with grace and commitment.

Just as nurses care for us when we are sick, we must ensure that our health system supports nurses by enabling them to do their jobs safely and effectively. Research has shown us that when nurse staffing levels increase, patient risk of complications and hos-

pital lengths of stay decrease. This, in turn, leads to cost savings.

As our health system changes to meet our future needs, nurses are leading the way. The Affordable Care Act and the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report both call for nurses to optimize their contribution to patient care.

Increased federal and state engagement is needed to ensure that America's nursing workforce remains strong in years to come. I believe we must expand nurse training programs and increase the number of nursing faculty available to teach the next generation. Only then will we begin to be able to address the national nursing shortage that could potentially jeopardize future patient access to care.

Mr. Speaker, National Nurses Week has been celebrated annually since 1991, beginning on May 6th, which is National Recognition Day for nurses, and ending on May 12th, the birthday of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize all the dedicated nurses who came before me, and all those who have come after. Supporting the nurses who care for us is simply the right thing to do, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to do just that.

IN HONOR OF ELOMBE BRATH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a living hero of Harlem and an international warrior for the African People, the great Elombe Brath. For more than a generation, Elombe, as the chairman of Patrice Lumumba Coalition (PLC), helped to coordinate hundreds of forums with the purpose of educating the masses, not only about the struggle in Africa but also about the conditions oppressed people faced all over the world.

Born in Brooklyn, NY on September 30th 1936, to parents who had immigrated to the United States from Barbados, the Caribbean Island geographically closest to the African continent, his early training of a political character was hearing his mother speak of her first cousin, Clennell Wickham who was the editor of the renowned *Herald* newspaper.

Brath's political commitment evolved in 1956 simultaneously with the struggle to eliminate "Negro" as the nomenclature of African American people. From this moment of Black consciousness it was an easy and logical step for him to create the "Black is Beautiful" campaign in 1961 following the creation of AJASS (African Jazz-Arts Society and Studios) with his brother Kwame and a cadre of other local activists in 1956.

Removing "Negro" from the lexicon, insisting on the beauty of Blackness, and refusing to accept the Eurocentric worldview, Elombe and his cohorts were in the vanguard of change as they launched the Grandassa Models and "Naturally Shows," beginning in 1961, featuring Black women in all their natural-born beauty.

All of these activities were the foundation for his total involvement in African affairs, including his association with FOPANO (Federation of Pan-African Nationalist Organizations),